



The Southwester

Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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Mayoral Debate Comes To Waterfront



Photo: Sadia Athias

On Saturday, February 22, the democratic candidates for mayor assembled at Arena Stage for a two-hour debate moderated by Shannon Vaughn, the Editor-in-Chief of this very paper. Candidates Muriel Bowser, Vincent Orange, Andy Shallal, and Tommy Wells were in attendance, while Mayor Vincent Gray and Jack Evans were notably absent.

The two-hour debate began with each candi-

date giving a two-minute opening speech describing themselves, their platform, and how they differentiate themselves from Mayor Vincent Gray.

According to the candidates' staff and the media outlets in attendance, the Ward 6 debate was hyper-local and deeply pointed in nature. Candidates were asked to define their stances on questions solicited by members of the community over the past few weeks, as well as questions from

audience members regarding the future of this great neighborhood.

The heart of the debate focused on key topic areas relevant to the SW Waterfront and Navy Yard neighborhoods - the newly-coined "Waterfront Communities." The debate wove its way through topic areas such as education, campaign finance, ethics reform, public housing, the Waterfront Arts District, transportation

issues, the Southwest BID, decriminalization of marijuana, and the renaissance of the Waterfront Communities.

The event was live-tweeted by *The Southwester* staff using the hashtag #DCision14 and was also streamed live online. A recording of the debate can be seen at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/44113241> (debate starts at 28:30).

Friends of Southwest DC Annual Meeting

By: Coralie Farlee, President, Friends of Southwest DC

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of Friends of Southwest DC, which will be held on Thursday, March 20th, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Augustine's Church, Maine Ave and 6th St SW. We hope that this centralized and accessible location will provide greater opportunity for all interested Southwesters to participate.

The Friends of Southwest DC is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1998. The organization provides grants for community development, educational, and charitable purposes in the near Southwest. In 2013, seven grants were awarded to ten organizations that serve primarily youth and families. Please come to hear directly from the people involved. At the meeting, representatives from those organizations will elaborate on

how the grants were used, including participants' reactions.

This annual meeting is an opportunity for donors to FOS, as well as residents of the Southwest community, to hear what FOS has accomplished during the year as well as to meet the representatives of other nonprofit organizations in Southwest. The activities of FOS are supported by tax-deductible donations from local residents. Tax-exempt organizations in the Southwest DC area may apply for funding at any time.

Contact Coralie Farlee, President, at 389 O St SW, WDC 20024, by phone at 202-554-4407, or by email at FriendsSWDC@yahoo.com. Donations may be made to this address or via credit card through Razoo.com (indicate "Friends of Southwest DC" in upper right window). Please contact Coralie Farlee at the above number or e-mail with questions.

Know Your Neighborhood: DISTRICT CROSSFIT

By: Shannon Vaughn

It's 5:33am and 13 inches of snow have shut down the District. I roll over to turn off my alarm only to see a text message: Pick you up in 10? "Why would anyone think to be awake this early on a snowy Thursday morning?" I say to myself. Nonetheless, I drag myself out of bed to enter the blizzard, all for the prize of working out before sunrise.

As editor-in-chief of *The Southwester*, I want to highlight new and hidden locations and businesses in the neighborhood that many residents do not yet know. As such, we aim to inform with our newest column KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

On my first day of the group "Foundations" class, our coach, Teresa, said, "We're not here to make you huge, we're here to re-teach your body how it should work. Even if you work out one hour a day, seven days a week, you're still only exercising 4% of your life." Given CrossFit's almost cult-like following, I was skeptical, but still entered my month-long class with an open mind. Desperate to find a workout to strengthen my knees after four knee surgeries or to soothe my bad back, I was willing to try anything.

Over the first week I learned back-to-the-basics moves such as throwing heavy balls against the wall, lifting heavier kettle bells "Russian style," and dead-lifting even heavier barbells, but weight was not the key - style and form were. Coaches would correct my form repeatedly, almost to a fault, but each time the pain subsided and my body felt better.

As I slowly learned the basics of CrossFit, I began to see groups of friends more than groups of classes. Most members rarely entered by themselves, yet few had known anyone before joining. Over time I started to peel away my preconceived notions that CrossFit is a bunch of self-centered, fanatical jocks and realize that it is a just place to hang out with friends while getting in shape.

In the beginning it felt as though I was being disruptive by changing my workout partners' routines or weights, but each time they insisted as they, too, remember their first few weeks. "It's a competition against yourself," one member told me, and to many that is just the case. More times than not members can be seen jotting in their notepads after each workout - "A measurable success!" they would say. Over my short month I, too, saw measurable gains. At work I would catch myself hunched over in my seat, when picking up groceries I would lift with my legs, when walking I would "tighten my core." Overall I would say the month was a success for myself, and now for the neighborhood. As I told neighbors and friends, I noticed less than one in ten knew there was even a CrossFit gym in our neighborhood, much less the largest in the DC metro area (over 10,000 sqft).

With members ranging in age from 18 to over 50, it's a small microcosm of our neighborhood - young, old, black, white, overweight, fit - but each has come to this former warehouse at 1525 Half St SW to make the most out of their life, even if it's only 4%.

New Coalition Launches To Educate About Toxins in Anacostia River

By: United for a Healthy Anacostia River coalition

Seven leading environmental and business groups in the district have announced the formation of United for a Healthy Anacostia River, a new coalition that will work to educate key audiences about the toxins in the

bottom sediments of the Anacostia River.

The Anacostia River consistently ranks as one of the most polluted and toxic rivers in the nation. Toxins found in the river have long been associated with increased risks of developmental disruption, neurobehavioral deficits, and cancer.

See "Toxins," page 7

WARD 6 COUNCIL ELECTION FORUMS

Hear the Two Candidates Speak! **Charles Allen** ★ **Darrel Thompson**

In Southwest

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, March 4th
7 to 9 p.m.

In Shaw

Watha T. Daniel/Shaw Library
Tuesday, March 11th
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Andrew Lightman, Managing Editor of Capital Community News, will moderate. Questions will be gathered from sponsoring organizations as well as on cards from the audience.

These Forums are sponsored by The Hill Rag, MidCity DC, The Ward 6 Democrats, The Hill Center, Westminster Presbyterian Church, ANC 6E, The Near SE/SW CBBC, The Capitol Hill Restoration Society, The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and Empower DC.



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Test Scores and Athletic Performance Continue to Improve at Amidon-Bowen

By: Lucy Rojansky

Students at Amidon-Bowen continue to demonstrate substantial gains in academics and athletics, and the results are translating into significantly higher projected enrollments for the school.

The latest round of Paced Interim Assessment (PIA) test results are in, and Amidon-Bowen students' scores show significant growth in every grade. In the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, Amidon fifth graders were reading at a 31 percent proficiency rate versus a District average of 40 percent. By the most recent round of PIA exams, Amidon's fifth graders had reached 68 percent proficiency, versus a District average of 56 percent.

"Clearly, we are using the data available to us to move all of our students forward," said Amidon-Bowen principal, Izabela Miller.



"I am confident that the work we are doing here will continue to result in real gains for our students," said Miller.

Meanwhile, the school's sports teams continue to outperform in citywide competitions against much larger and more established athletic programs. The boys indoor track team finished second in the city, while the girls team finished fourth.

"This was quite an accomplishment," said Athletic Coach Frank Briscoe, adding that about ten girls and ten boys competed on each team, whereas other city elementary schools draw from upwards of 35 students.

In basketball, the boys finished the regular season undefeated (5-0). This year also marked the first in which Amidon-Bowen has ever fielded a girls basketball team; the team closed out the season with a winning record (4-2) and were poised to enter the playoffs.



Amidon's third and fourth graders are also demonstrating significant improvements over the course of the year, rising to 66 percent proficiency, above the District's average of 58 percent.

The school's progress has not gone unnoticed, and DCPS has forecast an almost 10 percent increase in enrollment to 372 students for the coming year, the second time in as many years that enrollment projections have increased. Currently, there are 341 students enrolled.

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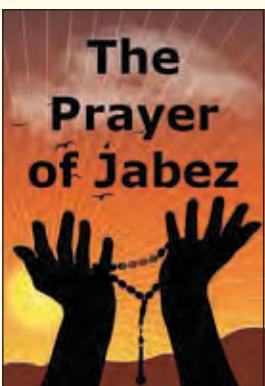
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**Shrove Tuesday-Mardi Gras
Pancake Supper
March 4 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Ash Wednesday Services
March 5 – Noon and 7:00 p.m.**

**Evening Prayer followed by
Simple Lenten Supper
Tuesdays, March 11 thru April 8 – 6:30 p.m.**

**St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
600 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20024
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rector@staugustinesdc.org**

SW Breast Cancer Support Group to Hold Women's History Month Celebration

By: Thelma D. Jones

The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support Group in Southwest is hosting its Women's History Month Celebration on Wednesday, March 19th, at 6:30 pm at the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Conference Room, 1101 4th St SW, Room W120. The dynamic Melanie A. Nix, Co-Founder of the Breast Cancer Comfort Site, will be featured and will share her various experiences and lessons learned as a survivor. Nix, a mutated BRCA1 gene carrier and triple negative breast cancer survivor by the age of 38, is a fifth generation breast cancer patient. She is also the niece of Zora Brown, a nationally-known breast cancer and ovarian cancer advocate, especially for African American women, who transitioned in March 2013. Nix will also share her memorable experiences of growing up with role models like her late Aunt Zora and late mother, Belva B. Brissett, also a breast cancer advocate. For more information on Nix, please visit (<http://www.breastcancercomfortsite.com/about-us/>).

The breast cancer support group meeting is open to Southwest residents and employees of this quadrant who have recently received a breast cancer diagnosis, are currently undergoing treatment, or are in remission. Caregivers are also welcomed, as well as others who are interested in women's health issues. Door prizes



Melanie Nix, featured guest of the Women's History Month Celebration

will be awarded and refreshments will be served. For security and planning purposes, registration is required. Please RSVP to Thelma D. Jones at tjones15@verizon.net, or call (202) 251-1639. Register now, as seating is limited.

(Thelma D. Jones is a breast cancer survivor and advocate. She founded the American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support Group in Southwest in April 2010.)

Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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Daily Mass: Monday – Friday 8:00 AM and 12:10 PM
Saturday 12:10 PM

Holiday Mass: 5:15 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:15 PM

Federal Holidays: 8:00 AM Mass Only

Eucharist Adoration and Holy Hour:
Thursdays, 4:45 PM to 5:45 PM

Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday – Friday 11:55 AM - 12:10 PM
Saturday 4:30PM – 5:00 PM
Thursdays of Lent 5:00-5:30PM

Special Services For Ash Wednesday March 5

▲ 7:15 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of ashes

▲ 8:00 a.m.
Mass with the distribution of ashes

▲ 11:15 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word with the distribution of ashes

▲ 12:10 p.m.
Mass with the distribution of ashes

▲ 5:15 p.m.
Mass with the distribution of ashes

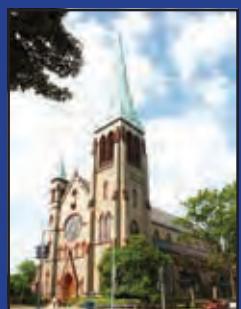
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Email: receptionist@stdominicchurch.org

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MARCH

SAT 1 @ 10:30 A.M. Family Story Time. Stories, songs and activities to celebrate the season. SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

SAT 1 @ 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email email: wilsonpj108@verizon.net

SUN 2 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church, Religious Movie Seminar "City of Angels" with Nicolas Cage, Meg Ryan, Andre Braugher, Dennis Franz and Colm Feore (1988) (114 mins) FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863

MON 3 @ 7-8:30 P.M. PAWS of Southwest. The monthly meeting is open to the public in the downstairs community room of in the SW Neighborhood Library. Also find us PAWS of Southwest on Facebook.

TUES 4 @ 7 P.M. Shrove Tuesday-Mardi Gras Pancake Supper. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

WED 5 @ 12 NOON-7 P.M. Ash Wednesday Services. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

THURS 6 @ 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Tommy Wells Southwest Community Office Hours at Channel Inn on the Waterfront located at 650 Water Street, SW.

FRI 7 @ 6:30 P.M. potluck, 7 P.M. games. St. Augustine's Game Night. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St. SW, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SUN 9 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church, Religious Movie Seminar "Meet Joe Black" Part 1 starring Anthony Hopkins, Brad Pitt and Claire Forlani (1998)



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Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

(178 mins). Also Showing: Spotlight on Location (10 mins) and trailer. FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863

MON 10 @ 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th St. SW, DCRA Hearing, Room on 2nd floor.

TUES 11 @ 10:30 A.M. Southwest Community House Association (SWCHA). Status hearing and sharing some data about the programs operating at Randall Recreation Center. Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Ave NW, courtroom #114.

TUES 11 @ 6:30 P.M. Evening Prayer followed by Simple Lenten Supper. Tuesdays March 11 through April 8th. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

WED 12 @ 7 P.M. St. Augustine's Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. "Select Readings of African American Poets" will feature poems of Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, Arna Bontemps, Maya Angelou, James Weldon Johnson and others. Black History and culture enthusiasts and long time parishioners Thelma Jones and Josephus Nelson will perform reading. Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St., SW. 202-554-3222 www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SUN 16 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church, Religious Movie Seminar "Meet Joe Black" Conclusion with Anthony Hopkins, Brad Pitt and Claire Forlani. FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863

WED 19 @ 12 Noon Luncheon Meeting. The South-

west Waterfront AARP #4751 chapter. The mission, 2014 goals, resources and services of the Department of Aging, ad Disability Resource Center and Aging and Disability Care. SPEAKERS: Dr. Chantelle Teasdell, Associate Director and staff members of the DC Aging and Disability Resource Center, Office on Aging. The program is presented in conjunction with 2014 National Women's History Month Theme: Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes' community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. Costs: \$5.00 for lunch.

SUN 23 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, "Trouble Along the Way" with John Wayne, Donna Reed, Charles Coburn and Chuck Connors (1953) (110 minutes) FREE. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863.

SAT 29 @ 1 P.M. Southwest Library Book Discussion (formerly known as the Kitchen Table Book Discussion) You are invited to attend a discussion of Kate Chopin's novel 'The Awakening'. Copies available for checkout at the Southwest Library.

SUN 30 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, "The Mighty Macs" starring Ellen Burstyn, Marley Shelton, David Boreanaz and Carla Gugino (2009) (102 minutes). Also Showing: The Mighty Macs ESPN Segment (6 mins) and the Making of the Mighty Macs (23 mins). FREE. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863.

MON 31 @ 7:00 P.M. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boat Class. For the beginner and experienced boater, "About Boating Safety" is an 8 hour overview of safe boating practices and counts as a safe boating class for state requirements. Four two-hour classes on Mon. and Wed beginning March 31. \$25. To register, book included. Go to www.washingtonflotilla.org for more info. and registration.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULTS/SENIORS BINGO BRUNCH, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Streets SW. FREE

BABY AND TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., Tuesdays March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st. Songs, fingerplays, Rhymes and stories to help in the development of literacy skills. Ages: Birth to 2 years of age and caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M Street SW. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the "littlest members" of a community of faith.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Tuesdays 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

TUES 4 Introduction to Microsoft Word

TUES 11 No class scheduled

TUES 18 Introduction to Microsoft Excel

TUES 25 Introduction to Microsoft Powerpoint

APRIL 1 PC Basics

CREATE CLUB, TUESDAYS, 4:30-5:30 P.M. For Ages 5-12. Each week features a different creative activity. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church,

900 Fourth Street SW, Community room off Wesley Place, SW.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:45-3:45 P.M., King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW. 645-7454.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, (New Day) THURSDAYS, 1-7:00 P.M. By Appointment Only. Help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. SW Neighborhood Library. Call 724-4298 or stop by to set up an appointment. March 6th, 13th 20th and 27th and April 3rd.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS 10:30 A.M.-Noon, every 1st & 3rd Saturday, SW Neighborhood Library. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work.

NARFE-THE NATIONAL Active and Retired Federal Employees, 1:30-2:30 P.M., every fourth Thursday through May. SW Neighborhood Library, basement meeting room.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, 7-8:30 P.M., every Third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, 10-11 A.M., every Last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, 10:30 A.M. Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th and April 2nd. Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays to promote early literacy skills. A craft activity follows. Ages: 2-5 and parents/caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library

PAJAMA STORYTIME, 7 P.M. Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th and April 2nd. Stories, and picture books fun and learning before bedtime. For children of all ages and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon on Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster's Wellness program.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, 8:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine's Church, 600 M Street SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW.

SW LIBRARY, Saturday 1st- Friday, 28th. In celebration of Valentine's Day, stop by the library to check out a wrapped title. It may be a fiction or nonfiction title, but like the best blind dates, it should be fun.

TOT LOT Program, 10:30 A.M. Thursdays, Randall Community Center, South Capitol & Eye Streets SW 554-6973. Activity time for toddlers, ages 18 mos. to 3 years and parents/caregivers. Movement and activities that develop gross motor skills that can enhance balance, coordination, socialization, strength, self-esteem and reinforce cognitive development in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

WALK FOR WELLNESS Tuesdays and Fridays, while walking to music, 11-12 P.M. in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR'S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW. 202-863-0564

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street SW, 4 P.M. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5:30 P.M. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 P.M. Samoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 P.M. Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.



The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund

The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund was created to help reduce the high number of breast cancer cases and high death rates among our region's most vulnerable residents. With your help, we can reduce the rate of cases and number of deaths from breast cancer.

Donations support outreach and education strategies that link low-income, uninsured and underinsured women with information, screening and diagnostic services.

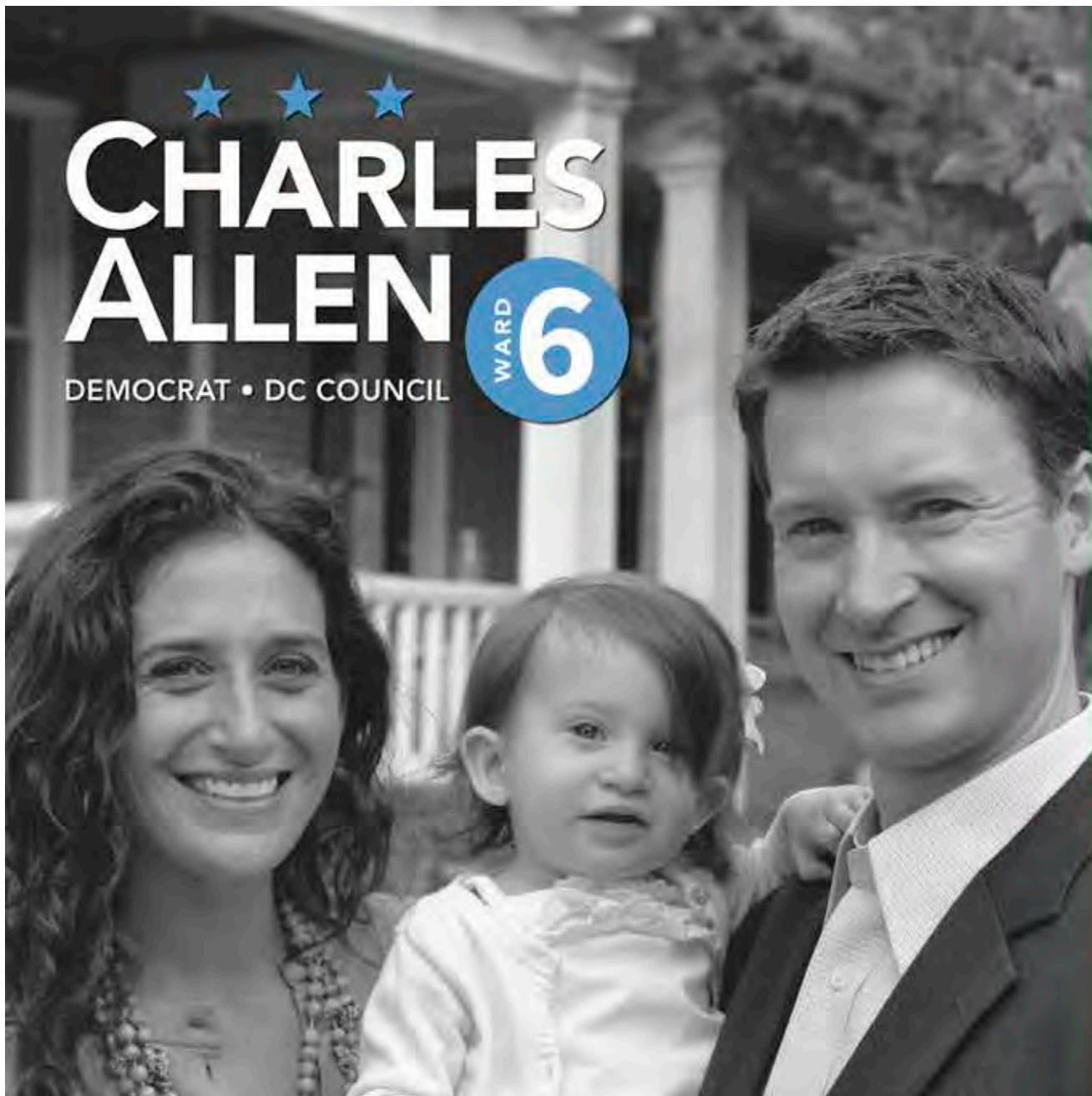
Gifts may be made by sending check, money order or credit card authorization to DC Cancer Consortium at the address listed below or by visiting our website www.dccanceranswers.org.

When donating by mail, please make checks or money orders payable to DC Cancer Consortium and write The Thelma D. Jones Breast Cancer Fund on the memo line.

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SW Resident to be Featured at Virginia Book Festival

Southwest resident Keya Chatterjee, and author of the book *The Zero Footprint Baby*, will be featured at the 20th Annual Virginia Festival of the Book. The Festival, which takes place March 19-23, 2014, is held in Charlottesville, VA. Ms. Chatterjee's stories and experiences come largely from her efforts to live a sustainable lifestyle right here in Southwest, where she has lived for over a decade with her husband, Andrew Kravetz, and her son, Siddharth.

TOXINS

From p. 2

"The area around the Anacostia River in DC and Maryland is on its way to becoming a huge cultural, social, and economic resource for the region," said Doug Siglin, who serves as chair of the coalition and has more than three decades of experience with clean water issues regionally, nationally, and internationally. "But it cannot reach its potential as long as dangerous chemicals in the riverbed and at certain places along the bank remain un-addressed. The members of United for a Healthy Anacostia River are joining together to be vocal champions for a comprehensive clean up effort. The longer we wait, the longer we postpone the benefits of the Anacostia River and ignore a potential threat to the health of our community."

Currently, the coalition is in the process of reviewing the Anacostia River Sediment Project Remedial Investigation Work Plan, which was released by the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) on January 30th. The work plan lays out a framework to guide future clean-up of toxins from the bottom sediments of the Anacostia River. According to Siglin, the work plan provides a critical first step to cleaning up the river.

"This is a much-needed starting point for a city-wide conversation about the enormous benefits of cleaning up the Anacostia. It is also an

essential step in meeting the coalition's goal of initiating comprehensive clean-up efforts by January 2017 - midway through the next mayor's term."

According to Dennis Chestnut, Director of Groundwork Anacostia DC and member of the coalition's steering committee, there is no better time to get this process started.

"Washington, DC is experiencing tremendous residential, business, and economic growth. Housing development is at an all time high and DC is leading the nation in many innovative categories. These accomplishments are very commendable. But, if there is not the will to restore the health of our most valuable natural resource, we will have squandered a major economic opportunity and failed the existing and future residents of our wonderful city."

In addition to reviewing the DDOE work plan, the coalition is planning on having a robust digital and social media campaign aimed at educating key audiences about the state of the river and encouraging them to be advocates for cleaning it up. Already the coalition has launched a Change.org petition addressed to Mayor Gray and members of the DC Council, asking them to "make a commitment to fully cleaning up the toxic chemicals found in and around the Anacostia ... [and] pledge to have the toxic cleanup underway by January 2017 – three years from now."

For more information about the coalition, residents are asked to visit the website: www.healthyanacostiariver.org

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Programs



Above, in the community room of Channel Square, Greg Boykin, left, conducted an awards banquet for the five teams of the Wolfpack football program at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center. At right, the SW Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force field trip to the Playseum on Capitol Hill gave Southwest children a chance to play with balls of all sizes, to ride in a toy car, and to play baker, decorating fresh muffins, among other activities.



A table of football awards for the Wolfpack players. A plaque was given to the SW Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force for supplying team uniforms and equipment.

Photos: Dale Machler

'Camp David' at Arena Stage

By: Sheila Wickouski

Everyone involved with *Camp David* is an award winner. The historic drama about the meeting of three Nobel Prize world leaders was written by a Pulitzer Prize winning author and stars Emmy and Tony Award winners.

Pulitzer Prize winning author Lawrence Wright's drama takes place over the 13 days at the presidential retreat in Catoctin Mountain Park when President Jimmy Carter (portrayed by Emmy winner Richard Thomas) and his wife Rosalynn (Tony Award nominee Hallie Foote) hosted Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (portrayed by Tony winner Ron Rifkin) and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (Egyptian actor and activist Khaled Nabawy).

This meeting to pursue the impossible dream of creating peace in the Middle East would result in a treaty between Egypt and Israel, signed in Washington, DC, on March 26th, 1979.

For the first time in history Egypt, a prominent Arab state and Israel's most powerful enemy, recognized Israel's legitimacy. Israel accepted principles for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and withdrew its armed forces and civilians from the rest of the Sinai Peninsula which had been captured during the Six-Day War in 1967. The agreement also included free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal.

The play pivots on the moments when this possible peace is at stake.

While hailed as a watershed moment in Middle Eastern history, the Camp David Accords would not win either Sadat or Begin unanimous accolades. Begin's most devout radical followers and Sadat's Arab allies were severe critics.

But for many in the world, the two men had

risen above their national politics to be true leaders. They would share the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978. Jimmy Carter would be awarded the Nobel in 2002.

Emmy Award-winning TV and movie producer Gerald Rafshoon, who served as White House communications director during the momentous summit at Camp David brought the idea of this project to Molly Smith, who directed the production.

WORLD PREMIERE HISTORICAL DRAMA

WHAT: *Camp David* by Lawrence Wright and directed by Artistic Director Molly Smith

WHERE: Kreeger Theater

WHEN: MARCH 23 - MAY 4, 2014

TICKETS: Tickets for *Camp David* are \$55-\$110, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. For information on savings programs such as student discounts, Southwest Nights, Pay-Your-Age tickets and Hero's Discounts, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/single-tickets/savings-programs/. Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org, by phone at 202-488-3300, or at the Sales Office at 1101 6th St SW.

SOUTHWEST NIGHT: Sunday, April 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

COST: Southwest D.C. residents may buy discounted tickets for specially designated performances of each production. Tickets are \$35 for musicals and \$25 for non-musicals, plus fees. Proof of Southwest DC residency or employment for each member of the party must be presented at the time of purchase. Tickets are limited to four per person and are based on availability. Sales Office at 1101 6th St SW.

January Real Estate Update

By Jason Martin

We hope you are enjoying the monthly real estate stats update, it's important to understand that we are only comparing Jan 2014 to Jan 2013. If you have any questions about these statistics please give us a call, we are happy to discuss (202-641-0299).

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2013	%Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$4,687,386	\$1,918,500	144.33%
Avg Sold Price	\$260,410	\$319,750	-18.56%
Median Sold Price	\$237,000	\$319,500	-25.82%
Units Sold	18	6	200.00%
Avg Days on Market	70	84	-16.67%
Avg List Price for Solds	\$267,206	\$336,633	-20.62%
Avg SP to OLP Ratio	96.0%	92.3%	3.96%

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